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COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES FROM THE TERRITORIES OF THE BALTIC STATES

Letter dated 12 April 1994 from the Permanent Representatives of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to bring to your attention the text of a statement dated 7 April 1994 by the Presidents of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on the decree by the President of the Russian Federation, signed on 5 April 1994.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 26 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Ernst JAAKSON
Permanent Representative of
Estonia to the United Nations

(Signed) Aivars BAUMANIS
Permanent Representative of
Latvia to the United Nations

(Signed) Anicetas SIMUTIS
Permanent Representative of
Lithuania to the United Nations

* A/49/50.

Annex

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENTS OF ESTONIA, LATVIA AND LITHUANIA DATED 7 APRIL 1994

We welcome today's press reports that Russian government spokesmen have declared that Latvia was "mistakenly" included in President Yeltsin's decree of 5 April 1994, which listed countries where Moscow seeks to establish military bases. While we welcome these reported declarations, we are concerned about the consequences that such incidents can have for our countries, for our relationship with the Russian Federation, and for the ability of all countries to cooperate with the Government in Moscow. Thus, we invite President Yeltsin to declare personally and publicly that Decree No. 174 of 5 April 1994 was in error regarding the reference to Latvia and to reaffirm that he has assumed firm commitments on an early and complete withdrawal of Russian military forces from Estonia and Latvia.

The consequences of actions such as Decree No. 174 of 5 April 1994 and the same day's decisic by Moscow to retreat from provisions previously agreed upon in negotiations with Estonia and Latvia go much further than merely affecting negotiations between our countries and Russia. Our residents are frightened but - even more - tensions are increased in Europe because questions are raised about the Russian Government's reliability as a negotiating partner. Fundamentally, these actions are not in the interests of anyone supporting stability and change towards democracy.

The Baltic States have always negotiated with the Russian Federation in good faith and will continue to do so. Our Governments will do whatever is necessary to mitigate the consequences of this unfortunate incident. However, our abilities to continue in the same vein are limited; thus we appeal to all interested parties for assistance.

Lennart MERI	Guntis ULMANIS	Algirdas BRAZAUSKAS
President	President	President
Republic of Estonia	Republic of Latvia	Republic of Lithuania